

News Release
U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Rhode Island



March 25, 2005



**Armed Career Criminal is sentenced to
20 years in federal prison**

A federal judge today sentenced **Alberto Rodriguez**, 36, of Providence, to 20 years in federal prison for being a felon in possession of a firearm. In November 2003, Rodriguez, of 27 Hawking Street, fled from a car that Providence Police were pursuing and tossed away a gun.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Rodriguez's sentence was twice the standard maximum sentence for being a felon in possession of a firearm. His record of violent felonies and drug offenses made him an Armed Career Criminal, which subjected him to an enhanced sentence. His prior convictions include assault with a dangerous weapon, firearms offenses, perjury, and drug trafficking.

During a September trial, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose presented evidence that, on November 28, 2003, Rodriguez fled from a car that Providence Police officers were pursuing on Glenbridge Avenue. Officers Scott Petrocchi and Shawn Kennedy chased Rodriguez on foot and saw him drop a handgun. They apprehended him at gunpoint, and officers Petrocchi and Martin Hames, Jr. retrieved the gun, a loaded, .40 caliber pistol.

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Providence Police and the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose prosecuted it after a joint review by the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with Providence Police, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 550 years in federal prison.

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